

**CELEBRATIONS**

- High Academic Performance
- Substantial Community Partnerships
- Holistic Educational Approach
- Quality Educational Staff
- Solid Financial Management

**SURPRISES**

- Low Cost Per Pupil
- Diversity Present in D34
- Cost of Changing Class Sizes
- Enrollment History and Projections
- District Funding Resources

**CONCERNS**

- Changes in Class Size
- Overreliance on Technology
- Status of Full Day Kindergarten
- Use of Assessments/ Testing
- Loss of Balanced Programming
- External Impacts on Funding

## Recommendations and Key Findings Shared at Final *34Next* Session

The final session for the *34Next* Community Engagement Program was held November 5 and concluded with a set of five recommendations that were shared by *34Next* Co-Chairs Daniel O'Brien and Bill Utter. The final set of recommendations will be presented to the Board of Education in December.

***34Next: Community Views on Glenview 34 Schools*** was a collaborative effort between District 34 and a group of local residents that first launched in September. The purpose of this extensive community engagement program was for District 34 to gain a deeper understanding of the community's values and help further shape the district's priorities for its future.

"We are truly grateful to the community for the time they invested each month by attending the sessions. By hearing their voices and perspectives, we were able to identify some key areas of focus for the Board of Education to evaluate moving forward," Utter said.

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Develop a new model of communication on potential program changes that clearly explains the educational and financial impacts. The board must work to confirm the community's understanding.
2. Provide community and parents with a more comprehensive understanding of district assessments.
3. Board should conduct an extensive study on educational need/value and feasibility of full day kindergarten.
4. Evaluate appropriate use of technology to ensure there is an educational advantage and communicate that to the public.
5. Recognizing the diversity of D34 community, additional measures should be made to ensure the district is reaching, communicating, and engaging all populations.

# District 34 Implements New Security Measures to Improve Student Safety

In an effort to improve the safety and security of our students, District 34 is continuing to evaluate its emergency protocols and implement new measures at all school and district buildings.

At a recent Board of Education meeting, Director of Operations Justin Attaway and Westbrook Elementary School Principal Courtney Nordstrom discussed the progress of these new measures, many of which have already been completed or will be completed by the end of the school year.

“Following the unfortunate incident that occurred in Newtown, Connecticut in 2012, District 34 immediately began reviewing its crisis plans with local police and fire departments and developed recommendations of how we can further enhance our efforts. While we are pleased many of these recommendations are now in effect, Courtney and I understand that we must continue to evaluate what more can be done to protect the safety and security of our students and staff,” Attaway said.

In addition to the evaluation by Glenview Police and Fire Departments, the district also worked with a security consultant and collected safety and security data from a variety of sources including parent perceptions, focus groups, school community committees and building safety-assessment conducted by safety and security experts.

## Security Improvements

Some of the changes that resulted and have already gone into effect include the changing of all classroom door locks to a push button lock that can be accessed from the inside and the implementation of a new two-way radio system that provides clearer, more immediate communication amongst staff. All current AED devices were also replaced and additional AED devices were supplied to buildings as needed.

## District-wide Plan

Looking ahead, Attaway said he is working in conjunction with Nordstrom on developing a district-wide emergency manual that fully documents many of the procedures that are currently in practice as well as guides for additional emergency scenarios. One of the goals of the manual is to create a more consistent,



systematic approach to emergency and crisis situations across the district.

It is expected that the manual will be complete by end of January 2015 and fully implemented once each building has undergone necessary training.

“Although internally we do have protocols in place and often perform different emergency drills that are in compliance with Illinois School Code, this further documents what those plans are, giving our staff a place to reference and better prepare themselves should an emergency strike,” Attaway said. “There will be a crisis team at every school, with all members trained and fully versed on the procedures outlined in this emergency plan prior to implementation.”

“The new emergency plan helps D34 be more consistent in emergency response at the building and district level. It enhances our communication plans as well,” Nordstrom added.

In addition to the implementation of the emergency plan, the district will also be re-keying all doors based on a tiered system that outlines different levels of access for each employee and replacing all security cameras. These improvements are expected to be complete by the end of the school year.

# Volunteers Needed to Join CFAC

The Citizen's Finance Advisory Committee (CFAC) is comprised of staff members and residents with financial backgrounds. The committee was established in 2001 with its purpose being to provide the Board of Education with financial recommendations and reports.

**CFAC** is currently searching for two volunteers to join. Interested candidates should value education highly, appreciate the opportunity to dive into the details of the district's finances, want to contribute to the district and be able to do so outside of the work day, is an involved parent, has a financial background and understands the benefit to understanding district finances.

Interested candidates should contact Superintendent Mike Nicholson at [mnicholson@glenview34.org](mailto:mnicholson@glenview34.org) and provide a letter of interest and/or resume.

## The 2014-15 Committee Members include:

**Chris Collins**, Resident & Parent  
**Amy Kahhat**, Resident & Parent  
**Jim Kendall**, Resident & Parent  
**Mark Miller**, Resident & Parent  
**Kip Read**, Resident & Parent  
**Kim Reome**, Resident & Parent  
**Sheila Tauber**, Resident & Parent  
**Alex Topping**, Resident & Parent  
**Mike Nicholson**, Superintendent - D34  
**Sam Ach**, D34 BOE Representative  
**Wendy DiBiao**, GEA Member  
**Nan Ross-Meridith**, GEA President  
**Donna Schutz**, GPA Representative  
**Irene Villa**, Principal - Henking  
**Mary Werling**, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services

## 34Next *continued from page 1*

### A total of four sessions were held, which included:

**"D34: Past, Present, Future"** on September 10

**"Defining Student Success"** on October 2

**"Financial Landscape"** on October 21

**"Review of Key Findings and Recommendations"** on November 5

Total attendance at all four sessions nearly surpassed 200 participants, which included D34 parents, non-parents, business owners and other key community members in Glenview.

In addition to the recommendations, O'Brien and Utter outlined at the final session the celebrations, surprises and concerns that emerged from this process.

"Spearheading this program allowed Bill and me the unique opportunity to not only take an in-depth look into District 34, but to also gain a better understanding of the values our residents represent. We feel this educational experience was one shared by all in attendance throughout the four sessions," O'Brien said.

The celebrations, surprises, concerns and recommendations were all based on participant feedback received during the first three sessions. Additional input collected at the November 5 session will also be reviewed and incorporated into the final set of recommendations that will be presented to the Board of Education during its regularly scheduled meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, December 8.



# From the Superintendent

**M**uch has been reported about the Common Core State Standards [CCSS] in the news over the past several years. From District 34's perspective, CCSS have represented a most positive and welcome change in public school policy—one that has been a long time coming.

There are many reasons why CCSS represent a sea of change in public education, and that change bodes well for our children. First, CCSS are shared by 43 states in our nation, making these learning standards virtually common across our country. This is big given that previous to CCSS, learning expectations nation-wide were drastically different, and, moreover, not linked to college and career readiness nor benchmarked to international performance standards. As a nation, we had very uneven and less-than-rigorous learning standards for our students.

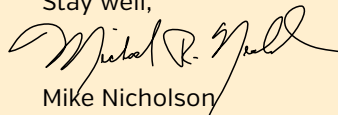
Who is really helped when there are such inconsistent expectations for our students' learning?

This has been known for quite a while, which is why CCSS have been a long-time coming. Though District 34 has had solid curriculum and learning expectations for our students, CCSS still raises the bar for us. Our students will be better equipped and prepared for college and careers because they will have experienced schooling where more was expected of them, with all the attendant supports and necessary changes in instruction to help them meet and surpass those expectations.

It is true that nothing like the Common Core has existed in public education before. However, the premise that student learning will increase when the expectations for their learning increases has been researched and validated for some time. The benefits of raised expectations are well documented. In many ways, CCSS are nothing more than that.

Tomorrow's leaders are born today, and the CCSS will be an important contributor to preparing many of those leaders. Please let me know if you ever have any questions about this welcomed change to education.

Stay well,



Mike Nicholson  
Superintendent



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**Our Mission**  
*To empower children  
to be self-directed learners  
and responsible  
decision makers.*

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